

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
ATLANTA DIVISION**

DONNA CURLING, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

BRAD RAFFENSPERGER, *et al.*,

*Defendants.*

Civ. Act. No. 1:17-cv-2989 (AT)

**NON-PARTY BACONTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC'S  
RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE  
DOCUMENTS, INFORMATION, OR OBJECTS OR TO PERMIT  
INSPECTION OF PREMISES IN A CIVIL ACTION**

Pursuant to Rules 26 and 45 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, non-party Baconton Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. (“Baconton”) hereby objects and responds to the subpoena to produce documents, information, or objects or to permit inspection of premises in a civil action (the “Subpoena”), served by Defendants Brad Raffensperger, et al. (“Defendants”). Preliminarily, and consistent with their obligations under the Court’s rules, counsel for non-party Baconton and counsel for Defendants are engaged in a “meet and confer” process. These responses and objections are submitted prior to the completion of that process because the agreed-upon extended date for filing is Friday, July 19, 2019.

## **RESPONSES AND OBJECTIONS TO DOCUMENTS REQUESTED**

Bacanton responds to the numbered paragraphs of the Subpoena as follows:

1. All communications between you and any Plaintiff in the Lawsuit from January 1, 2017 to present.

### **RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Bacanton is one. Bacanton objects to this request because it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Bacanton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on

non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because it seeks communications and documents that are attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work product. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. More specifically, because requests 5 through 7 of the subpoena specifically disclaim that they are seeking privileged documents, requests 1 through 4 necessarily include privileged documents. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that

provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because they are not relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes. Defendants can present no basis for believing that **any** communications are likely to lead to the discovery of relevant evidence, and, even if **some** such communications could be deemed relevant, Defendants’ entirely uncabined request for “[a]ll” communications sweeps in far more irrelevant information than discoverable information.

2. All contracts, agreements, or understandings, including but not limited to any joint prosecution agreement, potential joint prosecution agreement, or other document evidencing legal collaboration, between You and any plaintiff in the Lawsuit.

### **RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Baconton is one. Baconton objects to this request because it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a

discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Baconton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because it seeks communications and documents that are attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work product. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. More specifically, because requests 5 through 7 of the subpoena specifically disclaim that they are seeking privileged documents, requests 1 through 4 necessarily include privileged documents. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest

Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because they are relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes. Put simply, whether Baconton has any “contracts, agreements, or understandings” with the Plaintiff is fundamentally irrelevant to the underlying merits of either Plaintiffs’ claims or Defendants’ defenses.

3. All communications (a) between you and any counsel for any plaintiff in the Lawsuit that (b) addresses, concerns, relates to, or otherwise discusses the State of Georgia, the 2018 elections in Georgia, then Secretary of State Brian Kemp, Secretary Raffensperger, or any individual associated with the office of Georgia Secretary of State from January 1, 2017 to the present.

**RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Baconton is one. Baconton objects to this request because it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Baconton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because it seeks communications and documents that are attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work

product. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. More specifically, because requests 5 through 7 of the subpoena specifically disclaim that they are seeking privileged documents, requests 1 through 4 necessarily include privileged documents. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because they are relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule



26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes. Defendants can present no basis for believing that **any** communications are likely to lead to the discovery of relevant evidence, and, even if **some** such communications could be deemed relevant, Defendants' nominal attempt to restrict the request by targeting classes of communication uses sweepingly broad categories such as anything mentioning "Georgia" or "the 2018 elections," and thus is not remotely proportional to the discovery needs.

4. All communications that evidence, refer, reflect or relate to any contracts, agreements, or understandings, including but not limited to any joint prosecution agreement, potential joint prosecution agreement or other document evidencing legal collaboration, between You and any plaintiff in the Lawsuit.

### **RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Baconton is one. Baconton objects to this request because it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it

determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Baconton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because it seeks communications and documents that are attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work product. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. More specifically, because requests 5 through 7 of the subpoena specifically disclaim that they are seeking privileged documents, requests 1 through 4 necessarily include privileged documents. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because they are relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes. Further, because it is entirely irrelevant to the underlying merits of either Plaintiffs’ claims or Defendants’ defenses whether Baconton has any “contracts, agreements, or understandings” with the Plaintiffs, requiring Baconton to produce all communications in any way “relate[d] to” those purported contracts would be grossly disproportionate to Defendants’ purported need for the information.

5. All communications that evidence, refer, reflect or relate to any defendant in the Lawsuit, or any other individual serving as Georgia Secretary of State since January 1, 2014, between you and any individual or entity for which an agreement of the type identified in Request No. 2 above exists. This Request does not seek production of any privileged documents.

**RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Baconton is one. Baconton objects to this request because, it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Baconton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because, despite the purported carve

out for “privileged documents,” the request by its very nature seeks communications and documents that are **either** irrelevant **or** attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work product, and thus covers no discoverable information. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because

they are relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes.

6. All communications that evidence, refer, reflect or relate to any Georgia election from January 1, 2014 to present, between you and any individual or entity for which an agreement of the type identified in Request No. 2 above exists. This Request does not seek production of any privileged documents.

**RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Baconton is one. Baconton objects to this request because, it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Baconton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this

subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because, despite the purported carve out for “privileged documents,” the request by its very nature seeks communications and documents that are **either** irrelevant **or** attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work product, and thus covers no discoverable information. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical

cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because they are relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes.

7. All documents that evidence, refer, reflect or relate to any provision or exchange of resources, including but not limited to money, equipment, personnel, donor lists, or any other form of assistance or collaboration between You and any plaintiff in the Lawsuit since January 1, 2017 to present. This Request does not seek production of any privileged documents.

### **RESPONSE:**

Defendants are seeking information relating to potential collaboration between the Plaintiffs in the instant litigation and the Plaintiffs in *Fair Fight Action, Inc., et al. v. Raffensperger, et al.*, Case No. 1:18-CV-05391-SCJ, of which Baconton is one. Baconton objects to this request because, it ignores the requirement in Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that parties are to consider relative access to relevant information. In this case, Defendants seek information from a non-party that (if it exists) could be obtained through a discovery request to a party. As a result, it imposes undue burden and expense on a non-party. And, as Rule 26(b)(2)(C)(i) directs, the Court may limit discovery if it determines that the discovery “can be obtained from some other source that is more



convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive.” Finally, for objections based on Baconton’s nonparty-status, Rule 45(d)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure commands that a party “must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena.” With the issuance of this subpoena, there has been no effort to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on non-party Baconton where the information that Defendants seek, to the extent any responsive information exists, is readily available from a party before the Court.

Baconton further objects to this request because it seeks communications and documents that are attorney-client privileged and protected attorney work product. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). The breadth of this request will necessarily include privileged communications between this non-party, its attorneys, the Plaintiffs to the instant litigation, and their respective attorneys. In addition, there is a Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement that protects communications between the *Fair Fight* Plaintiffs and the Coalition Plaintiffs in *Curling*. Pursuant to the Joint Litigation and Common Interest Agreement, any responsive documents that may exist are privileged communications and protected attorney work product.

Baconton further objects to this request as it seeks documents from a non-party that are not “relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case” as Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires. More specifically, this is a case in which Plaintiffs allege that the “State

of Georgia Defendants have delayed in grappling with the heightened critical cybersecurity issues . . . posed for the State’s dated, vulnerable voting system that provides no independent paper audit trail.” (ECF No. 309 at p. 2). Any communications that Baconton may—or may not—have had with Plaintiffs in the case before this Court do not meet the standard for the scope of discovery because they are relevant and they are not proportional, the dual requirement that Rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure imposes. Simply put, whether Baconton has “exchange[d] resources” with Plaintiffs is fundamentally irrelevant to the merits of either Plaintiffs’ underlying claims or Defendants’ defenses.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of July, 2019.

/s/ Kurt G. Kastorf

Kurt G. Kastorf (GA Bar No. 315315)

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*Counsel for Baconton Missionary Baptist  
Church, Inc.*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this the 19th day of July 2019, I caused to be electronically filed the foregoing Non-Party Baconton Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.'s Responses and Objections to Subpoena to Produce Documents, Information, or Objects or to Permit Inspection of Premises in a Civil Action with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will automatically send notification of such filing upon Counsel of Record:

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/s/ Kurt G. Kastorf

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